

Application No.: 10/083,092

Case No.: 56471US010

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 5-30 are pending. Claims 2-4 have been previously cancelled. Claims 19-23 and 25-28 have been previously withdrawn from consideration. Claim 1 is currently amended.

§ 102 Rejections

Claims 1, 5, 8-10, 13-15, 18, 24, and 30 were rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by Hoyle et al. (WO 99/64235). The Patent Office submits in part that: Hoyle et al. disclose a protective article having a backing containing a fluoropolymer that is not perfluorinated and a curable adhesive layer on at least one surface.

Applicants have amended claim 1 so to make clear that the claimed adhesive layer is non-tacky after cure and contains only thermosetting adhesive resins. Hoyle et al. disclose only PSAs, that is, adhesives that are tacky even after cure. For at least this reason, Hoyle et al. do not anticipate the invention as now claimed. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the above rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 1, 5-7, 10, 11, 13, 24, 29, and 30 were rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by Rinde et al. (US 5,470,622). The Patent Office submits in part that: Rinde et al. disclose a protective article having a backing containing a fluoropolymer that is not perfluorinated and a thermoset adhesive as claimed on at least one unetched surface of the backing.

Rinde et al. disclose an article having a fluoropolymer backing and an adhesive on the backing. The Rinde et al. adhesive is a mixture of a thermosetting resin and an amorphous thermoplastic resin. Applicants have amended claim 1 so to limit Applicants' adhesive layer so to contain only thermosetting resins. For at least this reason, Rinde et al. do not anticipate the invention as now claimed. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the above rejection be withdrawn.

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§ 103 Rejections

Claim 12 was rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rinde et al. in view of Neumann et al. (US 5,889,125).

Claims 16 and 17 were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rinde et al.

Rinde et al. has been discussed above in view of the amendments to the claims. It is believed that Nuemann et al. do not provide the claimed elements that Rinde et al. do not disclose or suggest. For at least this reason, Applicants submit that the the above combination of the references as suggested by the Patent Office does not result in the invention as now claimed. For at least this reason, Applicants respectfully request that the above rejection be withdrawn.

In view of the above, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the application is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date

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